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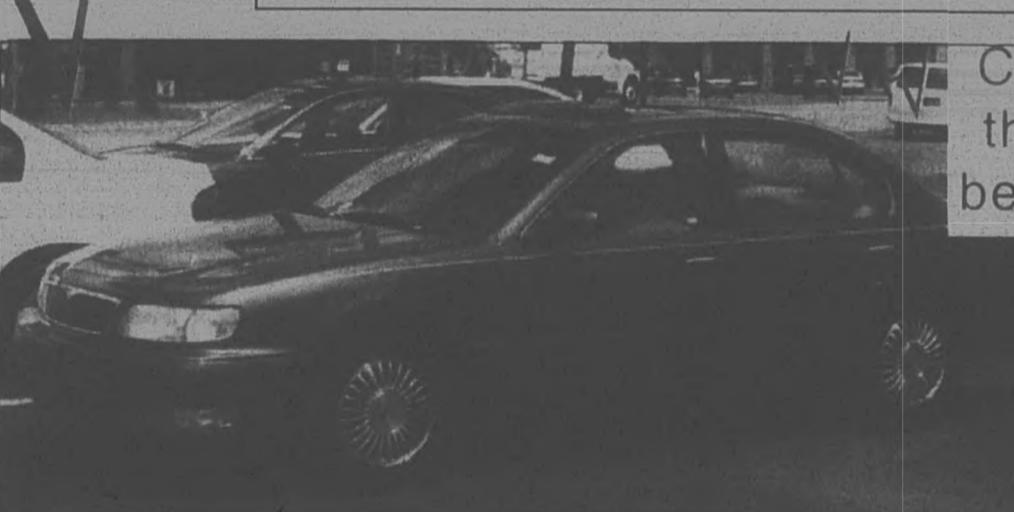
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INSIDE

James Bedsole  
grows bumper  
crop of  
watermelons

INSIDE

ZC Rebel football  
team preparing  
for upcoming  
season

# The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 10

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, August 22, 2002

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

## Contracts awarded for Elba levee rehab project

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The wheels of government continue to turn, if not at the speed Elba people really wanted to hear because it could be as long as three months before any dirt is moved. He quickly listed a number of permits and other "red tape" items that must be completed before the work can legally begin.

The Army Corp. of Engineers announced last Friday the official awarding of contracts on the long awaited \$12 million Elba levee rehab project. The successful bidder is LJC Construction Company of Dothan. Project Manager is Gene Oden, who now lives in Enterprise and was heavily involved with the Elba flood recovery efforts of 1998 while working with Hammer Construction Co.

Corp. of Engineers sources had said several weeks ago that they had received a number of good bids, and at least five of them had come in with prices well under construction cost estimates.

LJC Construction is a minority owned company, owned and managed by Lori Clark. She was featured several months ago in a Dothan Eagle article lauding her extensive, growing, and very successful, work record on a large and varied number of government construction contracts.

Tuesday, Oden said he and the company were proud and pleased to be included in this major project. He explained that the company has done a lot of government work but this is different work and to cover as much of the local matching cost as possible with in-kind work.

In response to all Elba's ques-

tions of, "When are you going to start moving dirt," Oden said his answer was not going to be the one Elba people really wanted to hear because it could be as long as three months before any dirt is moved. He quickly listed a number of permits and other "red tape" items that must be completed before the work can legally begin.

A preconstruction meeting with the Corp. of Engineers is expected in the second week of September. A big hurdle that is already being addressed is preparing an application for an Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) permit on the company's plans for handling the waste water, and other runoff, from the project. Mr. Oden expects this to take three to four weeks at best.

He closed with an observation that typically these projects can take 90 days to get underway,

and at best, it will take 60 days to get detailed permits and other paperwork ready and approved by the Corp. and other government regulatory agencies involved.

Much of the clearing work in the expanded levee right-of-way has already been done by City of Elba crews. They moved in as soon as deeds had been signed and cleared buildings, trees, etc. in an effort to speed the completion work and to cover as much of the local matching cost as possible with in-kind work.

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## EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS  
With Ferrin Cox

Last week our sloppy grammar caught us again. We are not going to get out of this world alive and all because of English teachers! Even with our explanation that "gosh, we know better, but..." the facts are the same. The whole world sees what our "24 hour a day" English teacher called *typical Southerner language*. To say we will never, ever do that again would, well it would be an untrue and an insult to YOUR intelligence because most of you know better. We can promise to be a bit more sensitive to corrections and hopefully make fewer of those obvious mistakes in grammar. It does help keep us on our toes for readers to point out these mistakes, especially when we are done with the sweet smile of this last one.

How wrong many of us were in thinking the respective sides in the professional baseball arena would do just about anything to avoid a strike. On the heels of postponing the setting of a strike deadline, the players' association did a reversal and now has given the owners an ultimatum, bargain in good faith (i.e. agree with us) or we are out of here. Again, it is hard for the average American wage earner to sympathize with the financial plight of someone already putting down millions of dollars a year in salaries and bonuses.

The television news at noon Tuesday was reporting another kidnapping of a young girl from her home. There was one a couple of days ago where reportedly the girl, a high school classmate of the child's dad, took her out of the house in the night, assaulted her in the backyard and proceeded to beat the child with a hammer. He then claimed to police that he "blacked out". Then there is the woman in Texas (we think it's Texas) whose lawyer is apparently using some legal crap to get his client out of jail for kidnapping a baby, saying she is suffering mental anguish because of the death of her own child. Sorry lady, you have no right to transfer your anguish to another mother of your own choosing! All these happenings are horrible and brings many unknowns to mind. One of the most pressing questions in our brain, after wondering where the safety of the world's children is going, happens to be, "Is this a relatively new, and terrible rash, or is it something that has gone on for years, but has only recently become extremely popular to talk and write about, thus making it appear to be a sudden rush of news worthy events?" Whatever the answer to this long question, somehow the world has got to stop people from kidnapping, assaulting and killing babies and young children.

It is good to know that Elba is getting a bit closer to having the extensive rehab of the levee actually being done and not just talked about! We would prefer to have seen the work done immediately after the 1998 flood. Yours truly showed our ignorance in Washington by telling an Assistant Secretary of the Army that we wanted it done before March of 1999, "because March is South Alabama's rainy season and we needed action now." The ups and downs of this project have tested our patience like nothing else in the world. It is regretful that Mother is not alive to see that someone, or something, has forced her oldest child to accept patience... something she, nor God, never managed to be successful at achieving!

Another surprise of this week (rivaling the baseball players position) is the vote by the Montgomery City Commission to move forward with their occupational tax plan. It was generally believed in most quarters that the opposition was just too much and they would seek some other way to raise their needed funds. Again, oh how wrong we were on that issue. They are either a gutsy bunch, desperate bunch, ignorant bunch, or just plain don't get the picture, to move forward in the face of th negatives on this particular tax. Now there will be an extended court battle over the legality of the tax, the split vote, etc., but the new odds are that if you work and draw a pay check in Montgomery, AL, you have got to pay the new tax, sooner than later.

Our blood continues to simmer over comments of an accountant before a congressional committee in Washington. This was during one of the many hearings over messy high profile publicly traded company collapses. This guy was asked how and why his firm didn't find the financial problem(s) during regular audits. He said "...under oath and with a straight face..." "We asked them and they didn't tell us anything was wrong," or something like that. Folks, as a young fellow we took a college course in auditing. On the first day, our well seasoned instructor, a Mr. Sellers, said to the all male class, "Gentlemen, to be a good auditor you must assume that everyone is stealing and your job is to catch them." He used some saltier language than that, but the message is the same.

**ELBA GENERAL HOSPITAL REPORT**

Elba General Hospital had the following patients admitted during the time period of August 22, 2002, through August 18, 2002. They were: Stephanie Lewis, Janice Bell, Mary Hendrick, Betty Clark, Kenneth Bell, Kenneth Johnson, Cynthia Hudson, Betty Mulkey, Sam Chandler, James Wisdom, Anthony Mitchell, Shambay Johnson, Anthony Shambay Johnson, Ricky Mitchell and Jasmine Wisdom.

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Alabama Counties - \$19 per year - including tax  
6 months - \$10  
Outside Alabama - \$21 per year - 6 months - \$11

## Wanted: U.S. Military Academy applications

by Congressman Terry Everett  
2312 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2901

Each year, it is my pleasure to accept applications and recommend appointments to the four United States military academies. As we begin a new school year, eligible young men and women interested in attending one of the academies should read this carefully.

The United States military academies desire a geographical distribution of cadets and midshipmen. Thus, in the event of the congressional nomination and appointment process, which assigns a certain number of vacancies at each academy to every congressional district. For instance, the Second Congressional District of Alabama may have up to five places at each academy at the same time. Each year, I go through the nomination process to select candidates for any

vacancies which arise.

The process of applying to the military academies begins in high school, in the spring of the junior year or the fall of the senior year. At that time, students may contact my congressional office, expressing interest in The United States Military Academy at West Point; The United States Naval Academy at Annapolis; The Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs; and The Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y.

Often, young people whom have not had a final choice among academies will apply simultaneously to all four. (The Coast Guard Academy does not fall under these guidelines, so candidates apply directly to that academy.) Academy rules require that I

only consider legal residents of the Second Congressional District of Alabama. Those who live outside the Second District should contact their own congressman. Candidates are also eligible to apply to their U.S. Senators for a nomination and must follow their particular guidelines for application. Those who have a parent who is active military are also eligible to apply to the President's and Vice President's office for a nomination.

When I receive a candidate letter, I respond with application materials describing my office's procedures, as well as information cards to be filled out and returned to each desired academy. From then until my deadline of November 30th, the young person must submit all required information. i.e.

Academy rules require that I

share your views - write a letter to the editor

EDITOR

MDA receives no government

funds. Its work is the result of the caring generosity — and hope — of people like you.

Thank you for taking time to mail in to The Telethon on Sept. 12, and for making a pledge to MDA. Your support means a lot to Mattie and me, and to families in your community.

Sincerely,

Terry Everett  
Upper Marlboro, Md.

## Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, August 12, 2002, investigated the following incidents: one natural death, one domestic violence, one criminal trespassing, one criminal possession of a forged instrument, three for theft of property, one assault, one theft of services, one burglary, one driving under the influence, one criminal mischief and one missing person.

The following arrests were made: two for failure to appear and two for driving under the influence.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: nineteen for violation of the seat belt law, two for driving with a suspended driver's license, five for no proof of insurance, one for an improper tag, one for violation of the child restraint law and one for driving with a revoked driver's license.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:

**MONDAY, AUGUST 12**  
River stage - 4.13 feet (5.58 p.m.)

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 13**  
River stage - 3.40 feet (6:17 a.m.)

County E.O.M.s dispatched to the Big Little East, (9:49 a.m.)

Burglary (not in progress) - reported at 1404 Hickman Ave. (5:21 p.m.)

Alarm activated at 612 County Rd. 401 (5:42 p.m.)

Coffee County E.O.M.s dispatched to the stick yard on Hwy. 84 West (7:45 p.m.)

Loud and excessive music reported on Rebecca St. (9:25 p.m.)

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14**  
River stage - 3.43 feet (6:10 a.m.)

Alarm activated at 1405 Hwy. 84 East (11:06 a.m.)

Vehicle accident reported at the intersection of Winston/John St. (5:01 p.m.)

Prowler reported at 823 Washington Ave. (10:31 p.m.)

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 15**  
Prowler reported at 117 Cordelle Ave. (12:15 a.m.)

Alarm activated at 4:28 a.m.

County E.O.M.s dispatched to the stick yard on Hwy. 84 West (7:45 p.m.)

Loud and excessive music reported on Rebecca St. (9:25 p.m.)

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 16**  
River stage - 5.60 feet (6:07 a.m.)

Routine activity.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17**  
Alarm activated at, Subway (12:49 a.m.)

Stolen vehicle reported from Apt. B-3 of Elba Villas (2:15 a.m.)

River stage - 4.04 feet (6:07 a.m.)

Elba Fire Department responded to a fire alarm at the Elba Nursing Home (5:41 p.m.)

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18**  
Prowler reported at 841 E. Davis (3:22 a.m.)

River stage - 3.12 feet (6:40 a.m.)

Vehicle accident reported at the intersection of Hwy. 84 North and County Rd. 342 (3:05 p.m.)

Routine activity.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 19**  
River stage - 4.13 feet (5.58 p.m.)

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 20**  
River stage - 4.13 feet (5.58 p.m.)

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21**  
River stage - 4.13 feet (5.58 p.m.)

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 22**  
River stage - 4.13 feet (5.58 p.m.)

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 23**  
River stage - 4.13 feet (5.58 p.m.)

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 24**  
River stage - 4.13 feet (5.58 p.m.)

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 25**  
River stage - 4.13 feet (5.58 p.m.)

**MONDAY, AUGUST 26**  
River stage - 4.13 feet (5.58 p.m.)

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 27**  
River stage - 4.13 feet (5.58 p.m.)

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28**  
River stage - 4.13 feet (5.58 p.m.)

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 29**  
River stage - 4.13 feet (5.58 p.m.)

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 30**  
River stage - 4.13 feet (5.58 p.m.)

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 31**  
River stage - 4.13 feet (5.58 p.m.)

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 31**  
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## COMMUNITY

Signup for the direct and counter-cyclical program of crop years for 2002-2003 begins October 1.

Signup for the direct and counter-cyclical program of crop years 2002 and 2003 begins Oct. 1, 2002, announced Danny F. Crawford, Alabama State Executive Director, USDA.

USDA will begin making payments to farmers soon thereafter.

The 2002 Farm Bill provides for payments to be made to eligible producers of covered commodities and peanuts for the 2002 through 2007 crop years. Direct and counter-cyclical payments are made to producers with established crop bases and payment yields. Payment rates for direct payments are established by the 2002 Farm Bill and are issued regardless of market prices. Producers also are eligible for counter-cyclical payments, but payments are issued only if effective prices are less than the target prices set in the 2002 Farm Bill. The effective price is equal to the higher of the average loan rate or national average market price received by producers, plus the direct payment rate.

In July, letters were mailed to

farmers and operators asking them to verify acreage history reported to FSA. Based on this information, a second letter will soon be sent to farm owners and operators providing them with several options unique to their farm for establishing or updating bases. The 2002-2007 base option include: (1) using the farm's 2002 production flexibility contract acres as the base acres; (2) adding oilseeds to the 2002 contract acres; and (3) using the farm's 1998-01 planted acres.

The letter will also inform owners that if they elect to update their bases using the farm's 1998-2001 planted acres, they will have the opportunity to use their current farm payment yield or to update their yields using the farm's 1998-2001 production. The updated yields may only be used for counter-cyclical payments. To update yields, owners or operators must provide verifiable production evidence. The letter will provide a date that owners and operators should begin providing base and

yield information to their FSA service center.

Commodities eligible for both direct and counter-cyclical payments include wheat, corn, sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, rice, soybeans, sunflower seeds, canola, flaxseed, mustard, safflower, rapeseed, and peanuts.

USDA will soon make available an Internet-based tool to help producers understand their base and yield options.

Signup for the 2002 and 2003 direct and counter-cyclical program ends June 2, 2003.

Producers who have ques-

tions should contact their local USDA Service Center or FSA County Office. More information about 2002 Farm Bill issues is available at <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill>.



Pictured L to R: William Burns - Lions Past District Governor, Supt. of Schools in Geneva, Gaylon McWaters, Harold Johnson, Hubert Gilbert, Lavon Ham, Ashley Johnson, James Kelley and Brian McLeod.

### New officers announced by Elba Lions Club for 2002-2003

New Officers for the Elba Lions Club for 2002-2003 are: President-Danny Turner, 2nd Vice President-Brian McLeod, 3rd Vice President-Ashley Ham, One Year Director-Hubert Gilbert and Two Year Director-Harold Johnson.

President-Danny Turner, 2nd Vice President-Brian McLeod, 3rd Vice President-Ashley Ham, One Year Director-Hubert Gilbert and Two Year Director-Harold Johnson.

#### Area students make Dean's List for summer semester at ESJC

Enterprise State Junior College (ESJC) officially announces the names of students achieving recognition through the summer semester honor rolls.

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# SPORTS

Views from....

## THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Any one that thinks school lasts from 8:00 until 3:00 either doesn't make it in. Melanie is in the eighth grade this year and her typical school day begins with leaving the house at 7:00 AM and doesn't end until someone goes and gets her at 5:00 PM. These long days are because of volleyball and cheerleader practices that are held at least four afternoons a week, and pretty soon her nights will also get busy as the junior high football team will kick off its season and the volleyball season will also tip-off. Any free time on Friday nights is also gone for at least the next eleven weeks thanks to high school football games, which leaves only the weekends to recover. Hey, maybe now I know why she sleeps in on Saturday mornings!

### DUSTING OFF THE DESK...

The second annual Foggy Bottom Classic will be held on Friday night at Miller Memorial Stadium and all true Elba Tiger football fans should make plans to head down to the banks of the Pea River and pay a visit to the stadium and see the pre-season game between the Elba Tigers and the Samson Tigers. The stadium is still as pretty as it was way back in 1992 when the Tigers played their final game in the stadium in the fourth round of the state playoffs en route to the '92 state championship and there is still something special about watching a football game in the stadium where the Tigers snapped Andalusia's long-winning streak and held their epic battle against Enterprise, Pike County, Opp and other long-time football rivals. The Tigers moved to their new home back in '93 and have started to build a new tradition in Tiger Stadium. However, the rich history of Elba Tiger football was born down at Miller Memorial and it will always be a huge part of Elba Tiger football tradition. The annual visits to play pre-season games will keep those memories alive for future generations and help keep the stadium alive, as well. C'mon Tiger fans, lets put the place on Friday night and show Samson that football in Elba is still alive and well.

The Troy State University media guide arrived last week, and while Troy State hasn't exactly been the next stop for Elba High football players in recent years, a look at the guide made it clear that the Trojans once counted on the Tigers to help them be winners on the gridiron. Ted Headrest all-time leading rusher with 2,926 yards on 631 carries. Headrest also scored 11 touchdowns during his career and was named All-Gulf South Conference in both 1984 and 1985. Headrest was also a two-time All-SEC in 1983 as well as a two-time All-SEC in 1984. Other Elba Tigers listed on the Trojans roster included Bo Bradford (1980-81), Don Brannon (1986), Eddie Bryan (1967-68), Wycland Diffuse (1948), Harold Ferris (1952-53), Rudy Free (1967), Ray Flowers (1951), Wayne Flowers (1973), Ray Knight (1951), Earl McDowell (1950), John Morrison (1951-52), James Nelson (1956), Roland Powell (1956), Ferrell Smith (1965), Jackie Stoenemire (1992-93-94-95) and Reginald Worrell (1951). I guess there was a lot that Elba once played a large role in the success of Troy State football.

The Elba Athletic Club held its annual "Meet The Tigers" cocktail last Friday night at the Elba High Junch room and an over-flow crowd was on hand to eat hamburgers and meet the members of the Elba Pee Wee Tigers, in the Tri-County Football League should register as soon as possible with the Elba Recreation Department. A players age is based upon his age on Aug. 1, 2002. For more information call 897-6833.

### City pool to remain open on weekends through Labor Day

The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation has announced that the City Pool, located at Hawkins Williams Park, will remain open on weekends only through Labor Day, Sept. 2. The pool will open to the public on Saturdays from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM and on Sundays from 1:00 PM until 5:00 PM. Admission is \$1 for children under the age of 12 and \$2 for all others. For more information call the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation at 897-6833.

"I have listened to the talk from the owners and players in Major League Baseball and can't help but believe that the talk of a strike is nothing but a case of greed on the sides of both parties. The players are making money and trying to get more, but the owners of the Elba Tiger football, junior high football, volleyball and cheerleading squads. It was easy to see that the athletic program at Elba High is growing in numbers in all sports, and was great to see the number of parents and supporters that came out to show their support and join the Athletic Club. The athletic program at Elba High can't win on or off the field without the support of the community and it was clear to see that the support is there. If you haven't joined the Athletic Club do so today by calling Elba High School at 897-2266, or by mailing a check for \$50 to Elba High and enclosing your name and address. Do it today!"

\*\*\* I have listened to the talk from the owners and players in

### In second annual Foggy Bottom Classic

## Elba Tigers to tangle with Samson Tigers Friday night at Miller Memorial Stadium

The Elba Tigers will make their annual trek to Miller Memorial Stadium Friday night when they battle the Samson Tigers in a pre-season football contest and will not count toward either team's record. Coach Waters feels the game is important to his team and to the coaches.

"This pre-season game and our goal is to play every single player dressed out and to find out what we need to work on," added Waters. "At the same time, you do your best and try to win every time you take the field and the players are excited about playing the game. We have better play hard and play to win. We are going to get a lot of players into the game and get them in film so we can evaluate their skills in an actual game type atmosphere, but at the same time, we are going to try and give the players a game plan that can lead to a win on the scoreboard. We will run our base offense and base defense and look for execution and timing, and may use a few different formations to try a few things we may use later in the season. We will use three different quarterbacks and a lot of different running backs, and will really take a long look at the men in

the line on both sides of the ball. We had to rebuild our line and we have some youngsters that will have to step up in a hurry. This game will give us as coaches a gauge on just how far they have come, and what work we still have left to do."

"Samson beat us the last time they came up here in 2000 and I am sure they want to use this game as a springboard to give them confidence for the beginning of the season," said Waters.

"They had a young team last season and still played as hard for all four quarters, and I expect them to come to Elba Friday night looking to win the football game. Samson is a 2A school and we are a 3A school. So they have nothing to lose and will give it their very best shot to grab a win in pre-season action. I expect a very hotly contested game and just hope we can play well and give our fans something to get excited about. This won't be anything like last year's game when we over-powered Zion Chapel."

"Miller Memorial Stadium is still one of the prettiest high school football stadiums in the state and is where Elba Tiger tradition was born," stated Coach Waters. "This is the tenth year anniversary of the 1992

state championship team, and that team won the final regular game ever played in the stadium in the semifinals of the state playoffs. We won last year in our first pre-season visit to the stadium, and will do our best to add another win to the history of the stadium Friday night. Again, I urge all Elba Tiger football fans to come down to Miller Memorial Stadium Friday night to pay a visit to the old stadium and to show your support for his year's Elba Tigers."

### SPORTS SHORTS

#### Pee Wee football players needed

Any one ages 11-12 that wish to play football this fall with the Elba Pee Wee Tigers, in the Tri-County Football League should register as soon as possible with the Elba Recreation Department. A players age is based upon his age on Aug. 1, 2002. For more information call 897-6833.

#### City pool to remain open on weekends through Labor Day

work so we should be strong. I know the players are getting tired of hitting heads with each other and are looking forward to the pre-season game. Friday night. However, as a team we still have a lot of work to do before we are going to be able to compete night in and night out with the people on our school.

"This week we will continue to work on the fundamentals, every time we hit the practice field," added Waters. "And to get better on our base offense and defense. We have enough experience to make mistakes in our base packages, but we seem to still make too many in practice, and that has to end real soon. We aren't going to try to

work a lot on any wrinkles until we can run our base offense and defense without making mistakes. This week we should start to get our game faces on and start up our pre-practice."

When asked about Friday night's pre-season game against Samson, Coach Waters stated,

"We are going to keep it simple and try to polish up on our base packages on both sides of the football. We have had to fill some holes on both offense and defense, and Friday night will let us know how far we have come in those efforts. We aren't going to do anything fancy, but I will be surprised and very disappointed if we don't get after players and get after the football on every play."

"This week we will continue to work on the fundamentals, every time we hit the practice field," added Waters. "And to get better on our base offense and defense. We have enough experience to make mistakes in our base packages, but we seem to still make too many in practice, and that has to end real soon. We aren't going to try to

#### Sports staff expanded for high school football

With the kick off of the high school football season only one week away, The Elba Clipper has once again put in place an expanded sports staff to provide its readers complete coverage of the upcoming season.

Sports Editor Ricky Mularz and photographer Mike Capps

will once again cover the Elba Tigers, while Greg Branson will report on the Brantley Bulldogs. Tony Kelley will cover the Kinston Bulldogs, Robby Kinsaul will follow the New Brockton Gamecocks and Chris Winter will travel with the Zion Chapel Rebels.

#### Soccer sign up is underway in Elba

Boys and girls ages 6-12 are encouraged to register for the upcoming Youth Soccer season, to be sponsored by the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation. A players age is determined by his/her age on August 1, 2002, and age divisions will include "8 and Under" and "12 and Under." The season is scheduled to begin in mid-September. For more information contact the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation at 897-6833.

\*\*\* In closing... I have talked with the area coaches and next week will share with you their views concerning the upcoming high school football season. The coaches are all very busy this time of the year, but have been gracious enough to give me a few minutes of their time to talk football, and whether you believe it or not, the 2002 season is here.

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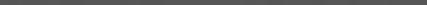
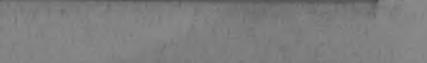
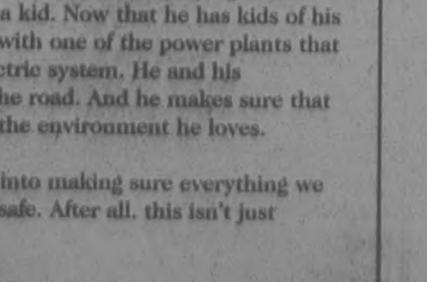
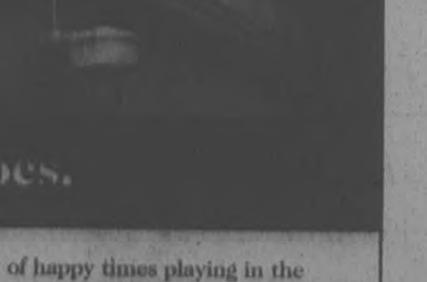
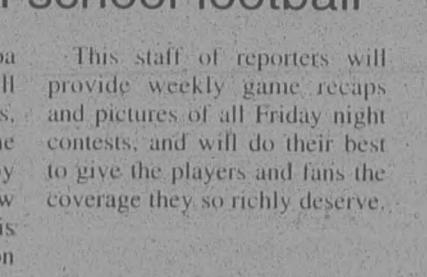
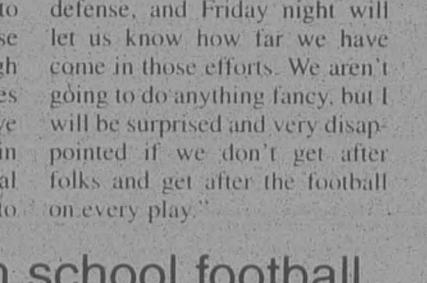
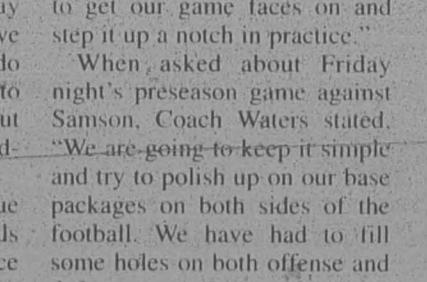
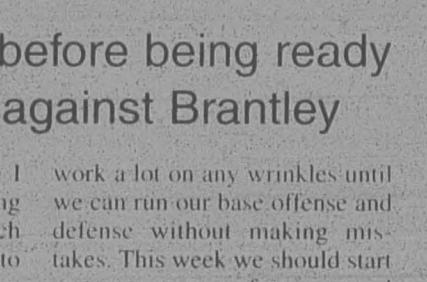
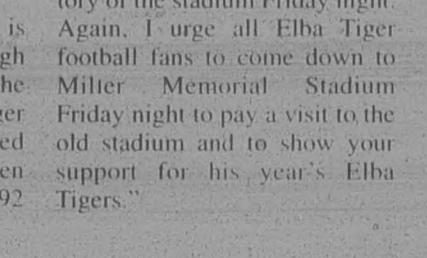
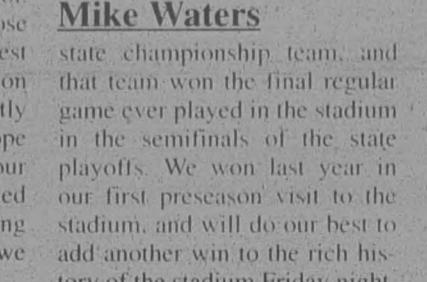
## Steve used to generate a lot of energy in his own back yard...

Steve remembers a lot of happy times playing in the fresh air when he was a kid. Now that he has kids of his own, he's an engineer with one of the power plants that services your local electric system. He and his family live just down the road. And he makes sure that his plant doesn't spoil the environment he loves.

We put a lot of energy into making sure everything we do is environmentally safe. After all, this isn't just where we work.

It's where we raise our families.

Heather Jones ropes calf



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At 334-738-4770 or  
1-888-592-LAWS

**ESTATE AUCTION** - Saturday, August 24, 10:00 a.m. Hwy. 14, Pleasant Ridge, AL. American West Alabama Antiques & Auctions, LLC, 372-1174 or (205) 496-0128. James L. Charles AAL #1434, 4:00 p.m. Two lots of antiques, Gadsden, Glendale City limits, 215 Hwy. 431. Auctioneer: Jim Hughes Auction Co. (205) 425-5454 for brochure. Jim Hughes AAL #302.

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INSIDE

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Foggy Bottom  
Classic

# The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 11 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, August 29, 2002 1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

## Crooked bridge removal project started then halted

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Official word arrived last week that the Alabama Department of Transportation (DOT) would permanently close Alabama Highway 125 at Whitewater Creek in Elba on Tuesday, Aug. 27, to allow the removal of the bridge locally known as the "crooked bridge."

DOT officials announced that Grady Ralls and Sons Inc. had been contracted to complete the project, and the estimated time for the removal of the bridge would be 50 working days. Construction warning signs were erected along the roadway leading to the bridge, and the project appeared to be on

track. By Tuesday morning, the project got underway as road closed signs and barricades were put into place and work began; however, the outlook of the project changed within a few hours.

According to project officials, the project to remove the bridge off Alabama Hwy. 125 at Whitewater Creek in Elba was put on hold by the Alabama DOT some time during the day Tuesday, Aug. 27.

Franklin Bowers, project engineer, said the road was set to be reopened Tuesday afternoon.

However, he said he had not received word from the state officials as to why the project was put on hold. Also, he said

in regards to the project, Grimes said the bridge is owned by the state and the city will go along with any decision the state makes concerning the crooked bridge.

Highway Department engineers have been reporting for over ten years that the bridge has "slipped" and any additional slipping could render the structure dangerous. They add that the design of the bridge no longer meets today's engineering standards and it is impossible to bring it up to standards without completely starting over and from different angles, etc.

As of press time, it was still unclear as to why the project had been put on hold and when it would resume.

The chief also reported a rash of plate glass windows in businesses being shot out by slingshots. While no arrests have been made, the police are working on several good leads, council members were told.

Whitworth told the council Monday night that long time police officer Steve Toller has resigned and taken another position as a police officer with Elba's certified 911 operators.

The chief also reported a rash of plate glass windows in businesses being shot out by slingshots. While no arrests have been made, the police are working on several good leads, council members were told.

City Attorney Jeff Kelley explained to council members that there is a need to adjust the city's employee manual. A section that requires supervisory jobs applicants to have job experience with Elba needs to be rewritten. However, Elba will continue to "look within first."

**During Coffee County Commission meeting**

**County resident accuses Brooks**

**of disrupting commission agenda**

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Elba City Council will hassle with the problem of replacing trained staff members now that Police Chief R. W. Whitworth has reported the resignation of a seasoned police officer and two certified 911 officers.

The chief also reported a rash of plate glass windows in businesses being shot out by slingshots. While no arrests have been made, the police are working on several good leads, council members were told.

City Attorney Jeff Kelley explained to council members that there is a need to adjust the city's employee manual. A section that requires supervisory jobs applicants to have job experience with Elba needs to be rewritten. However, Elba will continue to "look within first."

**During Coffee County Commission meeting**

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The regular bimonthly meeting Monday, Aug. 26, of the Coffee County Commission seemed as though it would be a routine one until a verbal disagreement began to get out of hand.

Ronnie Kennington, a Coffee County resident, requested permission to address the commission to discuss commissioner requirements, and he immediately pointed out that he was in attendance for Monday's meeting on his own accord without the encouragement of another party. However, Kennington said he had discussed his issue with other county residents, and they seemed to have the same

**Please See CCC, Page 3**

**FOEPL proves beneficial for library**

Since its inception, FOEPL (Friends of the Elba Public Library) has proven to be very beneficial to the Elba Public Library, and librarian Kay Wilson said the library needs its friends now more than ever.

"Friends of the Library" is made up of a group of people who are interested in the continued growth of the library while helping to expand the services of the library and make others aware of those services.

Wilson said Friends of the Library is a good program for anyone who wants to become involved with the library.

"We are working on some programs here that need the help of FOEPL," Wilson said.

There are many things Wilson said the members of FOEPL do for the library including helping with projects to raise money for

"I generally use FOEPL to do things here at the library that I can't do with my library budget," Wilson said. "If it wasn't for FOEPL, we couldn't pay for the Internet connection to the three computers donated by Dorsey Trailers."

Looking to the future, Wilson said the library has received a

**Please See FOEPL, Page 3**

no decision had been made on when the project would resume.

The decision to close and remove the bridge was made upon the recommendation of the Corps of Engineers.

Elba Mayor James Grimes

said the Corps recommended

closing and removing the bridge

to prevent a break in the levee.

He said he realized that the removal of the bridge would be

inconvenient to the residents

living on Smith Avenue in Elba;

however, officials thought it

would be better overall to follow the Corps of Engineers recommendation.

In regards to the project, Grimes said the bridge is owned by the state and the city will go along with any decision the state makes concerning the crooked bridge.

Highway Department engineers have been reporting for over ten years that the bridge has "slipped" and any additional slipping could render the structure dangerous. They add that the design of the bridge no longer meets today's engineering standards and it is impossible to bring it up to standards without completely starting over and from different angles, etc.

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